

In the following references to \"local\" radio NAB members, I will put \"local\" in parenthesis because, thanks to the headlong dash by Congress and the FCC to allow ever-expanding corporate ownership of radio stations, \"local\" radio stations are increasingly cloned, voice-tracked imitations of what used to be truly local talent, programming decisions, and OWNERSHIP which served the community both on and off the air.

\"Local\" stations increasingly rely on national services such as Metro Traffic and other syndicated services to deliver local traffic and other information. Over a decade ago, even before corporate ownership really took its toll, many \"local\" stations started using syndicated weather services which provide forecasts for whole regions, customized for the local market, and announced by voice talent which operated remotely from the station, over phone lines or satellite links. AS SUCH, THE DIFFERENCE, PRACTICAL, FINANCIAL, OR MORAL, between what satellite radio is starting to do and what \"local\" stations have been doing for YEARS is quite tenuous.

The NAB's proposal is another transparent attempt to have the FCC do what it cannot: stop or slow the exodus of listeners from \"local\" radio with excessive commercials, excessive program repetition, and, ironically, lack of good local content, including reliable traffic and weather information in many markets, to satellite providers who provide superior alternatives to all of the above for fees which are quite reasonable.

I say all this as an XM subscriber. I also say all this despite the fact that XM does not (yet) serve my market with traffic and localized weather information, and will not for the foreseeable future.

As a \"local\" radio listener, I find the amount of commercials and repetitive programming intolerable.

As a business owner who has used \"local\" radio advertising, I find \"local\" station management unethical and ineffective since \"deregulation\" has allowed Big Broadcasting to take over local ownership.

As a community volunteer who has occasionally needed \"local\" radio to help promote local charitable events, I have found these same stations non-responsive.

Give \"local\" NAB members the protection they deserve from the superiority of satellite - none!